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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/696,031 | 10/30/2003 | Hiroyuki Nagano | 402848 | 6038 |
| 23548 | 7590 | 03/16/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD 700 THIRTEENTH ST. NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3960 | | | CRANSON JR, JAMES W | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2875 | |

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/696,031 | NAGANO,HIROYUKI |
| Examiner | Art Unit | |
| James W. Cranson | 2875 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/15/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim./Amdt.

Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed 10/30/03 and papers submitted under 35 U.S.C.119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-6 are objected to as being indefinite. Applicant discloses two display panels, 41 and 61.

Which panel is referred to in claims 1-6?

The following claims have been rejected in light of the objection to the claims, but rendered the broadest interpretation [MPEP 2111].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by USPN 6,820,875 to Hedrick, et al. A gaming machine having cabinet, light source, decorative panel, support means for supporting decorative panel and a detachably attached frame is disclosed by Hedrick.

Regarding claim 1, A gaming machine (10a) comprising:

a cabinet (12);

a light source in the cabinet (claim 17)

a decorative panel (152, "enables old masks to be replaced with new masks

representing new games or effects") including a first surface for receiving light (152);

support means (154), provided with the cabinet, for supporting panel from first surface a frame (156), detachably attached to the cabinet (12), including a back face for supporting decorative panel “gaming device 10 includes a frame 156 that connects to housing 12” from a second surface of the panel opposite first surface when frame secured

Regarding claim 2, according to claim 1, support means (154) supports panel while in contact with only a peripheral part of panel (figure 9).

Regarding claim 3, according to claim 1, frame has safety means, “locking mechanism 158 removably secures frame 156”

Regarding claim 4, according to claim 3, frame includes insertion opening for panel from a bottom end of frame (column 8, lines 33-39).

Regarding claim 5, according to claim 3, shaft axially supports end of frame (column 8, lines 62-67, column 9, lines 1-27).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 is further objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if the other objection is withdrawn.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 6, according to claim 5, adds a cover to back face of frame that exposes a peripheral part of

first surface of panel, covering the light source with opening directed toward the frame. This combination of limitations is not taught or disclosed in the art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James W. Cranson whose telephone number is 571-272-2368. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30A.M.- 5:00P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandy O`Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Stephen Husar
Stephen Husar
Primary Examiner